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IMPACT OF FLOODING ON BC PHARMACIES/PATIENTS

In the next few days and weeks, some areas of the province may experience flooding. The Ministry of Health, the College of Pharmacists of BC and Health Insurance BC are working together to provide information to pharmacies who may be affected or who may need to serve patients that are affected.

Emergency Supplies

Current policy takes into consideration emergency supplies, allowing patients to re-fill a prescription when they have less than a 14 day supply. This two week supply should provide sufficient time for a patient to re-fill their prescription at another pharmacy if their usual pharmacy has been affected by flood or if they have been evacuated to another BC community. You may wish to reassure patients that their prescription can be re-filled at any BC pharmacy.

However, there may be exceptional circumstances under which a two week supply is not sufficient. In these cases, please use professional judgment in deciding whether to use the **UF** intervention code to override a 'fill-too-soon' message. As use of the code is subject to audit, please be sure to adequately document the circumstances and reason for each use of the UF code.

Emergency Relocations

In cooperation with the College of Pharmacists of BC, an expedited process has been developed for relocating pharmacies affected by flooding. For more general information on flood preparation, please visit the College of Pharmacists of BC website at www.bcpharmacists.org. For information on emergency relocation, please contact the College toll-free at 1-800-663-1940. If your pharmacy is in an emergency situation and cannot contact the College during regular business hours, the PharmaNet HelpDesk at HIBC can take your information for immediate follow-up on the next business day.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILL LEVONORGESTREL (PLAN B®)— COUNSELLING FEES

In our last newsletter, we advised that British Columbia had made levonorgestrel (Plan B®) 0.75 mg a Schedule II drug (behind-the-counter). As a result, patients are now able to purchase this drug without a physician or pharmacist's prescription.

Please note that PharmaCare will continue to pay a \$15 counselling fee if:

- the pharmacy has signed an *Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP) Program Evaluation Addendum* to the *Pharmacy Participation Agreement*, and
- the patient chooses to provide their PHN and have a claim submitted on PharmaNet.

Under the ECP Program, PharmaCare has paid a fee to pharmacies for counselling, screening, collecting and reporting information to the College of Pharmacists each time a contraceptive pill was prescribed or dispensed by a pharmacist. The program was a joint initiative of the province of British Columbia, the College of Pharmacists of BC and the University of British Columbia (UBC). It enabled UBC to use the non-identified data to evaluate the effectiveness of having ECPs dispensed without a physician prescription.

UBC has completed its evaluation and the federal government has approved ECPs for use without a prescription. As a result, PharmaCare is reviewing the program and will not be entering into new ECP Program agreements until the review is completed.

BENEFIT UPDATES

For your convenience, in future, the list of newsletters on the **Newsletters** page of our website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/newsletter/ will indicate which newsletters contain benefit updates. We hope this will help you to locate needed information more easily.

REMOVAL OF PRODUCTS FROM LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA) CATEGORY

Two valproic acid drugs—Depakene 500 mg (DIN 507989) and Ratio-Valproic 500 mg (DIN 2140055)—were recalled by Health Canada on May 11, 2007.

Health Canada indicated that capsules may not disintegrate properly and patients taking these medications may not be getting the full dose of the active drug. This could result in inadequate treatment of their seizures. Consumers who have purchased these products have been advised to contact their physician or pharmacist immediately to obtain another suitable product.

As a result of the Health Canada recall, effective immediately, these two partial LCA products have been removed from the LCA category for Valproic Acid 500 mg Capsule. Other products listed in the category are not affected.

CORRECT QUANTITIES ON THE WEB

A detailed list of the correct quantities to use when submitting claims to PharmaCare has been available on the PharmaCare website since mid-April. The list is regularly updated, so please check back often.

To access the list, visit our homepage (www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme) and select **Correct Quantities** from the Contents menu on the left-hand side of the page.

If you would like to request the addition of a specific product to this online list, please send an e-mail to pharma@gov.bc.ca.

Many thanks to those who have already made suggestions for additions and clarifications.

LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA)/REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (RDP) BOOKLET CHANGES

Price/Benefit Status Changes

Effective **immediately**, the following LCA categories have been revised.

CATEGORY		NEW LCA PRICE	NEW LCA STATUS
HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE SULFATE TAB 200 MG			
2246691	APO HYDROXYQUINE		F
2017709	PLAQUENIL	0.3400	P
2252600	GEN-HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE	0.3400	P

Effective **July 9, 2007**, the following LCA categories have been revised.

TRIAZOLAM TAB 0.125 MG			
808563	APO-TRIAZO		F
1995227	GEN-TRIAZOLAM		F
512559	HALCION	0.1226	P
TRIAZOLAM TAB 0.25 MG			
808571	APO-TRIAZO		F
1913506	GEN-TRIAZOLAM		F
443158	HALCION	0.2164	P

P — Partially covered.

F — Fully covered.

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP

The following newly-approved benefits have been added to existing LCA/RDP categories as eligible benefits for Plans B, C, F, I, and, if applicable, Plan G. (For the Plan G formulary, please visit the [Special Authority Information](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/) page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/.)

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	RDP	LCA STATUS	SPECIAL AUTHORITY ONLY
2291134	APX	APO-CILAZAPRIL 1 mg tablet		P	
2291142	APX	APO-CILAZAPRIL 2.5 mg tablet		P	
2291150	APX	APO-CILAZAPRIL 5 mg tablet		P	
2292378	APX	APO-PRAMIPEXOLE 0.25 mg tablet		P*	Y
2292386	APX	APO-PRAMIPEXOLE 0.5 mg tablet		P*	Y
2292394	APX	APO-PRAMIPEXOLE 1 mg tablet		P*	Y
2292408	APX	APO-PRAMIPEXOLE 1.5 mg tablet		P*	Y
2292068	APX	APO-FAMCICLOVIR 500 mg tablet		P	
2285215	OBT	CO CILAZAPRIL 2.5 mg tablet		P	
2285223	OBT	CO CILAZAPRIL 5 mg tablet		P	

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP, continued

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	RDP	LCA STATUS	SPECIAL AUTHORITY ONLY
2248182	OBT	CO PRAVASTATIN 10 mg tablet		P	
2248183	OBT	CO PRAVASTATIN 20 mg tablet		P	
2248184	OBT	CO PRAVASTATIN 40 mg tablet		P	
2287390	OBT	CO SERTRALINE 25 mg capsule		P	
2287404	OBT	CO SERTRALINE 50 mg capsule		P	
2287412	OBT	CO SERTRALINE 100 mg capsule		P	
2245427	PMS	PMS DIGOXIN 0.125 mg tablet		P	
2245428	PMS	PMS DIGOXIN 0.25 mg tablet		P	
2285622	UNK ²	RAN-CITALO 20 mg tablet		P	
2285630	UNK ²	RAN-CITALO 40 mg tablet		P	
2260867	RPH	RATIO OMEPRAZOLE 20 mg tablet		P*	Y
2292807	UNK ³	SANDOZ RISPERIDONE 0.25 mg tablet		P	

1 - Oryx Pharma

P - Partially covered

2 - Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

F - Fully covered

3 - Sandoz

P* - Drug is a partial benefit if a special authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

New LCA Categories

Effective **July 9, 2007**, the following drugs (including both existing and new PharmaCare benefits) will be included as new LCA categories on PharmaNet.

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	MAN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
CEFTRIAXONE SODIUM 1 G VIAL	2292270	UNK ¹	CEFTRIAXONE FOR INJECTION USP	F	
	657417	HLR	ROCEPHIN PWS	P	25.4286
CEFTRIAXONE SODIUM 2 G VIAL	2292289	UNK ¹	CEFTRIAXONE FOR INJECTION USP	F	
	657409	HLR	ROCEPHIN PWS	P	50.1047
DESMOPRESSIN ACETATE 0.1 MG TABLET	2284030	APX	APO-DESMOPRESSIN	F*	
	824305	FEI	DDAVP	P*	1.0289
DESMOPRESSIN ACETATE 0.2 MG TABLET	2284049	APX	APO-DESMOPRESSIN	F*	
	824143	FEI	DDVAP	P*	2.0577
PERINDOPRIL 8 MG TABLET	2289296	APX	APO-PERINDOPRIL	P**	
	2246624	SEV	COVERSYL	P	0.9265

1 - Sandoz

P** - Drug is a full benefit if RDP Special Authority is in place.

P - Partially covered

F* - Drug is a full benefit if a Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

F - Fully covered

P* - Drug is a partial benefit if a Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

BENEFITS

The following new products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for Plans B, C, F, I and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
2248151	ALL	ALPHAGAN P [®] (BRIMONIDINE TARTRATE) 0.15% ophthalmic solution	N	N
2270102	BOE	FLOMAX CR (TAMSULOSIN HYDROCHLORIDE) controlled-release 0.4 mg tablet	N	N

Benefits Palliative Care Drug Plan (Plan P) Only

The following new products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for Plan P only.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	LCA STATUS
2292025	APX	APO-FAMCICLOVIR 125 mg tablet	P
2292041	APX	APO-FAMCICLOVIR 250 mg tablet	P

P – Partially covered

Blood Glucose Test Strips

The following blood glucose monitoring strip are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for patients on Plan C, F and I who have a valid Certificate of Training in Blood Glucose Monitoring.

DIN/PIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
44123037	YNO	ASCENSIA CONTOUR	N	N
44123038	YNO	ASCENSIA BREEZE 2	N	N

LIMITED COVERAGE PROGRAM

The following new products are now eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Plans B, C, F, I and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P. For the Special Authority criteria, please visit the Special Authority Information page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
2258692	UNK ¹	COSOPT [®] PRESERVATIVE-FREE (TIMOLOL MALEATE 0.5% AND DORZOLAMIDE HCL 2%) ophthalmic solution	N	N
2242903	PED	ENBREL [®] (ETANERCEPT) 25 mg vial for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis	N	N
2274728	PED	ENBREL [®] (ETANERCEPT) 50 mg pre-filled syringe for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis	N	N
2269090	UNK ¹	TRUSOPT [®] PRESERVATIVE-FREE (DORZOLAMIDE HCL) 2% ophthalmic solution	N	N

1 – Merck Frosst

NON-BENEFITS

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2263238	VLH	CIPRALEX [®] (ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE) 10 mg tablet
2263254	VLH	CIPRALEX [®] (ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE) 20 mg tablet
2277263	UNK ¹	VESICARE [®] (SOLIFENACIN SUCCINATE) 5 mg tablet
2277271	UNK ¹	VESICARE [®] (SOLIFENACIN SUCCINATE) 10 mg tablet

1 – Astellas Pharma

At the request of the manufacturer, the following partial LCA products will be removed from the PharmaCare benefit list effective **July 9, 2007**.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
216666	NOP	NOVASEN 325 mg tablet
2273853	GPM	GABAPENTIN 300 mg capsule

OTHER DRUGS

The following products are not reimbursed by PharmaCare. HIV/AIDS drug coverage is the responsibility of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2284057	JSO	PREZISTA [®] (DARUNAVIR ETHANOLATE) 300 mg tablet

The following products are not reimbursed by PharmaCare. Cancer drug coverage is the responsibility of the BC Cancer Agency.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2284227	UNK ¹	NEXAVAR [®] (SORAFENIB TOSYLATE) 200 mg tablet for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma
2280795	PFI	SUTENT [®] (SUNITINIB MALATE) 12.5 mg capsule for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours and for the treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma
2280809	PFI	SUTENT [®] (SUNITINIB MALATE) 25 mg capsule for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours and for the treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma
2280817	PFI	SUTENT [®] (SUNITINIB MALATE) 50 mg capsule for the treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours and for the treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma
2278383	PIA	VANTAS [®] (HISTRELIN ACETATE) 50 mg for the treatment of prostate cancer

1 – Bayer Inc.

